

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. and 2. (Cancel)

3. (Currently Amended) An inductive head comprising a lower magnetic core formed on a substrate, a magnetic pole tip layer formed on the lower magnetic core, an upper magnetic core coupled in its front end to the magnetic pole end layer, coupled in its rear end to the lower magnetic core, having a width of the front end smaller than that of the rear end, and having at least partially a shape gradually reducing the width from the rear end to the front end, coils disposed around between the upper magnetic core and the lower magnetic core, and an insulating layer formed between the coils and the upper magnetic core or the lower magnetic core, wherein the distance between the ~~top surface of the~~ upper magnetic core and the lower magnetic core in a rear end region away from a air bearing surface in a region connecting the magnetic pole tip layer to said upper magnetic core is shorter than the distance between the top surface of said magnetic pole tip layer in the air bearing surface and said lower magnetic core.

4. (Original) The inductive head according to claim 3, comprising a magnetic gap layer formed at least near the air bearing surface on said lower magnetic core, a non-magnetic layer formed in a region such that at least the magnetic gap layer is moved away from the air bearing surface and having a portion for maintaining a thickness increased with moving away from the air bearing surface, and said

magnetic pole tip layer formed on the magnetic gap layer and the non-magnetic layer.

5. (Cancel)

6. (Currently Amended) The inductive head according to claim 4, wherein said magnetic pole tip layer is formed on the lower magnetic core near the air bearing surface, and is formed on the non-magnetic layer ~~formed on the lower magnetic core~~ in the region away from the air bearing surface.

7. (Cancel)

8. (Original) The inductive head according to claim 3, wherein said magnetic pole tip layer comprises three layers of magnetic layer/non-magnetic layer/magnetic layer.

9. (Currently Amended) The inductive head according to claim ~~5~~ 4, wherein said magnetic pole tip layer comprises three layers of magnetic layer/non-magnetic layer/magnetic layer.

10. (Original) The inductive head according to claim 6, wherein said magnetic pole tip layer comprises three layers of magnetic layer/non-magnetic layer/magnetic layer.

11. (Cancel)

12. (Original) The inductive head according to claim 3, wherein the front end of said upper magnetic core is recessed from the air bearing lifting surface by 0.2 to 3.0 μm .

13. (Cancel)

14. (Original) The inductive head according to claim 3, wherein the saturation magnetic flux density of the magnetic pole tip layer is higher than that of any one of at least the upper magnetic core and the lower magnetic core.

15. (Currently Amended) A magnetic disk apparatus comprising a magnetic recording media, a motor driving the same, a magnetic head for read and write onto the magnetic recording media, and a mechanism for positioning the magnetic head, wherein at least one inductive head according to claim 4 3 is mounted as the write head, a width of the magnetic pole tip layer of said head in the air bearing flying surface is not more than 0.5 μm , the saturation magnetic flux density of the magnetic layer consisting of the magnetic pole layer is not less than 1.6T, and the coercivity of the magnetic recording media is 317 to 634 kA/m (4.0 to 8.0 kOe).

16. (Currently Amended) A magnetic disk array apparatus comprising a plurality of the magnetic disk apparatuses connected, wherein at least one inductive head according to claim 4 3 is mounted as the write head, a width of the magnetic

pole tip layer of said head in the air bearing surface is not more than 0.5 μm , the saturation magnetic flux density of the magnetic layer consisting of the magnetic pole layer is not less than 1.6T, and the coercivity of the magnetic recording media is 317 to 634 kA/m (4.0 to 8.0 kOe).